MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOD TIMES

Vol. 25 # 2 PAW PAW MIDDLE SCHOOL DEC. 1998 $.50

WE'RE OUT OF HERE!

1999 will begin with the entire population of the middle school relocated in the new building a mile down the road. BUT don't report there on Monday.

Come to the old building one last time January 4 as we officially move our lockers' contents and ourselves to our new surroundings,

It's been almost thirty years since Paw Paw students had a new middle school. Years ago the 7th and 8th grade were in the old high school until they moved them and the 5th and 6th grade to Michigan Ave Middle School in the early 70's to free up crowding in the elementaries and the high school.

New lockers (ones that actually work), freshly painted and carpeted classrooms, locker rooms to feel proud of, a huge gymnasium and eventually computers in every room sometime in February. Wow! Happy New Year!

AS IF YOU'D FORGET...

January 4th is a half day for students. Classes will dismiss at 10.:55 to give teachers a few hours to unpack some of the more important boxes. That part of the move will take a while.

SUBSCRIPTIONS... (OR, WE CAN"T WAIT TO TYPE THIS THING ON OUR OWN LAB COMPUTERS)

Yes you can still subscribe...today or any day before the next issue in February. Today's cost is $2.00 since you missed one issue. (That's info for the friends who are reading someone else's paper right now.) and $1.50 before the February issue since you will have missed two by then.

See Mrs. Swanson or a staff member to subscribe. Her new room number is 803.

MAP OF NEW BUILDING... SEE LAST PAGE .. in case you lost the one passed out to you on Friday the 11th.

MEET MRS.LARSON...aka Miss Jaros.

Mrs. Larson was just married in October . She used to teach at St Philip in Battle Creek. There she taught 6th, 7th and 8th grade science for a year. Here she teaches 7th grade science and literature.

Her favorite subjects are science and math. She likes the school , the staff and students here. She lives in Portage and her family is from this area.

As a kid she enjoyed playing baseball, writing and tap dance. She also raced BMX and she was a cheerleader. by g. roscoe

HANUKKAH BEGINS DURING THIS WEEK

Hanukkah (Chanuka) is a Jewish holiday. It lasts for nine days during the month of December. Each day a candle in the menorah, a sacred candle holder, is lit. There are lit using ceremonial candle.

These days of Hanukkah go back to the scripture of the old testament. In a particular part of these writings, people are in a church with only a small amount of lamp oil . Using only this oil they keep the lamps burning for a extra eight days. The holiday celebrates a miracle of God's blessing that made the oil not run out.
by k.van sickle

RYAN'S WORDS OF WISDOM

Never get up when times are rough.

Second place is the first loser.

Would you like a value meal?

NEW FEATURE: LAST WORDS
by ramsey

FOCUS ON MRS.C.SMITH

LAST Music you bought: Chieftons Christmas C.D.
LAST time you ate meat: Dec.1
LAST book you read: The First Eagle
LAST magazine you bought: Good Housekeeping
LAST time you lied: on this paper
LAST thing you ate: Candy cane
LAST time youwere inspired" Dec.1
LAST time you left the country: 1990
LAST time you wanted to fight someone: Dec. 2
LAST time you were ripped off: Sept 1998
LAST thing that changed your life: Death of a relative
LAST time you got a ticket: 1987
LAST piece of clothing you bought: shoes
LAST person you talked to on the phone: people from Central Office
LAST program you watched on tv: Channel One news

BASKETBALL: FIRST SPORT TO USE OUR NEW GYM!!!

8th grade team (A) includes these people: Philip Weaver, Zach Tucker, Jim Whitmer, MAtt Zinkil, Matt Kilts, MAtt McDaid, PAul Bearss, Joe Motter, Alan Rhoderick, Brandon Holt, Mike Brownell, and Derek Danca.

B team includes Kyle Oisten, Matt Bush, Tim VanHorn, Robby Jack, Tim Taylor. Nick Culp, Bryan Stull, Spencer Husted, Brandon Francis, Aaron Avery, Sean Seymoure, and Brian Johnson. Mr. Hunter is the coach.

7th grade teams include (A) Matt Peshl, Ferris Baker, Ryan Curtis, Ben Pechota, Mike Kovach, Josh Kelly, Justin Ferguson, Brian and Kyle Reidenbach, Nate Medima, and Alex STull. B team is Ben Husted, Sean Salefske, Eric Boff, Chad McConnel, Scott Felcyn, Matt Wolownik, Joe Clement, Jon DeCou, Bret Beebe, MAtt MAyuiers, and Ryan Nelson.

SPORTMANSHIP by joe motter

A lot of little characteristics make people a good sport or not. Mainly though it all comes down to a positive attitude. Whether you're losing or winning you have to keep a good attitude. And being a bad loser isn't the only way to have bad sportsmanship. There are definitely bad winners too.

Take SErgei Federov. HE got off to a slow start this season. Instead of getting discouraged and angry all Federov says is that he needs to "bear down, get my head

SPORTSMANSHIP continued
into it and just work hard." That shows he is a good sport. Times are kind of bad for him so she just looks up and sees how he can make it better. I think he's a great role model of sportsmanship.!

THE SHOE by ram-z

The other night I found myself watching one of those real car crash shows. You know the ones; you watch them too or they wouldn't be on so much.

The show is basically a camera crew chasing ambulances, police cars or whoever else might head them to scenes of pain and suffering they can capture for the home viewing audience.

They kept it real enough to make you watch but distant enough to let you feel safe at home; safe on your couch behind the one-way looking glass.

So, I watched as the next episdoe unwound. The Police arrived on the scene of a fatal car accident. All four passengers were dead. One passenger's foot dangled limply out of the door. The camera man forced his way up to the wreckage - the blind ing lights of his camera chased away the darkness.

That's when I saw the shoe. It looked familiar - it was a skateboarder's shoe. The shoe was worn out and falling apart. He had skated a lot.

The shoe looked familiar because it was my shoe. The safety of the looking glass had been shattered. There on the screen were four skateboarders I would never meet on the street or at the park.

I thought about the shoe for a long time. Why did it take a shoe for me to realize I was watching others' pain like I watch a game show? It's difficult to sum this all up into a nice moral because life is unjust.

I turned off the television with a new outlook. I now try to meet and befriend more people. You see, despite our differences, we all wear the same shoes.

MR. BAKER- STUDENT TEACHER by eric boff

Mr. Baker was student teaching with Mr. Kannegieter this semester when Eric interviewed him.

Mr. Baker went to Murray Wright High School. His favorite sport and the one he played most was baseball.

He like the Detroit Lions and his favorite tv show is the Simpsons. He says he likes all kinds of music.

His favorite teacher in school was his 7th grade social studies teacher Mr. Walls. He showed compassion for kids.

Mr. Baker's role model is his friend Bilal Twacaab. He showed a lot of leadership and was a good motivator.

If someone gave Mr. Baker a million dollars right now he said he would pay off his student debt and spend half to try to help Detroit's athletic program.

His favorite foods are Chinese and Thanksgiving dinner.

EFFECTS OF THE DUKES OF HAZZARD ON AMERICAN SOCIETY/aka RYAN'S MANIFESTO

Vvvvrooom! The General Lee jumps another creek in Kentucky. You are watching the Dukes of Hazzard, the single tv show with the greatest impact on American society ever. You ask yourself, What is this?

I reassure you, however, that the Dukes surpasses Pearl Harbor, D-Day, the lst moon landing as the U.S.'s biggest impact causer. For instance, the terms "Yyyeee Hhaa!", Wwwahhooo" and "Let's jump in the creek" weren't truly defined until the legend that they call The Dukes of Hazzard came into existence.

There were no true bad guys in anything until Boss Hogg and his police car came into play. Hogg is the most villainous person ever portrayed on a screen. Hogg with his cowboy suit and belt buckle has been reproduced in many fashions, like Murdoch in Rambo II and J.W. Pepper from the James Bond series. Still all of these were poor acts and no one could capture the real essence of villainy as Hogg can.

Daisy Duke too is the sex symbol of the 70's. She wouldn't have ben on any show with lesser excellence. People tried to imitate her as well, but no one (not even Charlie's Angels) came close.

DOG inspired the largest toy wave in American history. Also Matchbox finally attained excellence with its series of DOH cars and playsets. Dolls (I know; I own all 6 of the new wave) cards, baseball cards and board games were also created in this period of Hazzard.

It has been proven in scientific study that Dukes of Hazzard actors were even braver than Evel Knievel. Now, however, not everything that came along with DOH was great. Because of this, many juveniles got the idea that they could outrun cops by jumping obstacles - crazy. The point is DOH is a true enigma and sets the standardsfor all dramas to follow. by r.t.

STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL STAFF:
Ryan Thyfault, MAtt Zinkil, Josh FRazier, Ramsey Beyer, Joe Motter
REPORTERS: Brandie Nash, Nicole Boucher, Katie Tapper, Frances Clare, Kim Van Sickle, Erin Hamilton, Tim Taylor, Christine Cashen. Jenny Swintz, Merry Roberts, Lis Dusseljee, JEssica Mendenhall, Brian Evans, Matt McDaid, Alyson Newlin, Hollie Harvey, Megan Thyfault, Laura Peter, Brandy Hite, Bret Seymoure, PAge Sandlin, Bem Husted, Alexis BArtoletti, Adam Anderer Ashley Sparks, Kim Coady, Gordy Roscoe, Jessica Bailly, Krista Champion
ART WORK Mike Asmundson, Robert Mengel,
MEETINGS in January...the 20th and 27th 8th grade lunch...22 and 29th 11:35 6 and 7 graders...and February 3 and 5. room 803.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE BAND in CONCERT DEC. 10

The seventh graders under the direction of Miss Gronda performed in the auditorium Dec. 10 at 7:30 with the following songs: Olympic March, The Twelve Days of Christmas, Jingle Bells Around the World, Christmas Chimes and Concert Rock.

The 8th graders' program included Aerostar, Deck the Halls, The Blue Rock, Jingle Bell Rock and A Carol Countdown.

Before the concert began , the high school Voices of the Future were caroling out front to welcome the audience. with their director Mrs. Baltmanis.

BASKETBALL SEASON GAMES LEFT TO PLAY...

Jan.5- Portage Central 7 here
Jan. 7 Portage Northern 8 here
Jan. 11-Pennfield 7 here
Jan. 19- Otsego - 7 here
Jan. 21- K-Hillside 8 home
Jan. 25- Decatur -8 A here
Tourney-Jan.28/30 8A only at Milwood

THE SADD DANCE by jswintz/ttaylor

The SADD dance was very exciting...and went very fast. Some people were complaining that they weren't able to dance with the high schoolers..(Tim, Colby and Matt) but overall, most had fun and there wasn't even the crying in the halls that often happens at dances.

SADD WEEK... by Lauren Peter

Our Sadd week at Paw Paw Middle School was anything but sad. We all got our red ribbons on Tuesday. If you were wearing your ribbons on Wednesday you got a free cookie at lunch hour. On Thursday if you remembered your ribbon, you got to wear a hat without a permit.

Friday night there was a 7th and 8th grade dance which was fun. The ribbon gave you a low price on your ticket.

The high school students are the dance were hyper and made it fun for all of us. This showed you could have fun without drinking.

ORIGIN OF THE SONG "I SAW MOMMY KISSING SANTA CLAUS"

by e. hamilton

My three observations per day for three days of the child who saw his mother kiss Santa included hearing him scream ,"My eyes!" for three hours. Finally we gave him tranquilizers and restrained him in his bed.

He kept singing "I saw mama kissing SantaClaus, Underneath the mistletoe last night."

My evaluation: This child had a severe case of schizophrenia and was delusional at the time of the incident.

SANTA by m. asmundson

Santa yells at Rudolf,"Go go go!"

While in mid-air he says,"Ho ho ho!

We got a lot of presents to deliver,

OW! Darn I just got a sliver."

He's bringing joy to all the people while nature seems to snow, snow, snow.

editorial note: we hope (see above)

BOB -- THE MOST FAMOUS DOGGIE OF ALL by k.hickok

There was once a dog named Bob. He was not a big dog..All the big dogs made fun of him and wouldn't let him play any doggie games.

It was nearly Christmas . Bob thought of that reindeer (couldn't remember his name) who turned out all right . But Bob didn't know Santa Claus and did not have a red nose. All he had was a big big tail. He was paid a dime to sweep sidewalks with it.

One day a big blizzard came. All the cars stick in the snow 10 feet high. So Bob started to sweep the sidewalks and streets.

EVeryone loved him and the dogs let him play in the dog games. Santa came and said he needed Bob to help him get the sled out of the ditch. Bob was now as famous as whoever that reindeer was.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO MISS ABOUT THE OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL? WE ASKED TEACHERS

Ms. Brown said, "The wooden floors and high ceilings in my classroom!" Mr. Wilson will miss" the elevator, the carpet on the third floor, the lockers that always work, the plush playground and the spacious parking lot." (in that order)

Mrs. Reisterer will miss "The architectural details liek the wood floors and doors and the reliefs on the outside of the building. I also think we will miss the auditorium." Mr. Lutz will miss" the dust and mold in room. The heater banging and whining! My room being the center of the universe."

Mr. Stimac said, "Not being geographically close to my "podmates. The noisey gym and lunch crowd's bedlam. My private bathroom - (the gym)" Mr. Ruesink will miss" I'll miss the sense of continuity engendered by the students' awareness that their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents sat in these very rooms and walked these actual hallways."

Mrs. Kalisiak will miss" all of my windows, my wood floor, my office and separate sewing room. OVerall, I'll feel a little sad as I leave my work"home" of 15 years. But I'm looking forward to a new beginning in our new "home." Ms. Cowin will miss " the backwards toilet in the girls' bathroom, tall ceilings, and big rooms."

Mrs. Swanson will miss her "home of 25 years... haven't ever lived anywhere as long as I've lived in this building. It may be falling into pieces around us but it is familiar . I will really miss being upstairs and looking out at the street through the seasonally-changing trees."

A few teachers gave opinions without putting their names in the right-hand corner... They will miss"the creaky floors, the large rooms, southern rooms bright enough to grow flowers, high ceilings, peculiar smells, (the musty attic syndrome), problems with lockers (I've gotten quite good now.) not having to stand on cement floors, one long hallway to the office, wood floors, slate chalkboards, and oak trim."

While it may be cause for reminiscence for some, others feel as Mrs. Schlarman who said, "Nothing. It'll be like waking up from a bad dream after we get moved."

THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL by lisa dusseljee

As you all know, we are moving to the old high school/ new middle school. WEll, Friday after school, Mrs. Covey, Katie Tapper, Merry Roberts and I went over there .I know you all might be wondering what it's like. It's really awesome. The gym is all redone with new floor that says "Paw Paw Redskins." It looks about ten times bigger too. It'll look really nice at the dance this winter.

I also got a chance to look at the classrooms which are really nice. They have cabinets and shelves and white boards (not black.)

The lunch room looks bigger to those who have been there when it was the old high school. There are going to be those huge lighes and better stuff in there.

If you were wondering if we saw the bathrooms, yes they do have stalls, doors, etc. and nice tall mirrors. We all hope it stays that way with the whole school.

We hope you have a nice vacation and we'll all see you January 4 here in the old building before we take our things to the new.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL MISS by Jessica B, Kim C., and Kristi C.

AShley Surdy will miss" all the people in the halls." Nicole Surdy and Abby Anderson will miss " the sawdust in Mr. Cassell's room."

Kim Coady will miss" the backwards toilet in the upstairs bathroom." Matt Peshl will miss " the smell of the hallway to the annex/bandroom and having two floors."

Julie Baltmanis will miss" the bathroom graffiti. while Shawna Mount will miss" the memories." MEgan Zolp will miss" her dad's classroom." Lisa Dusseljee will miss" the old bathrooms and the dusty heaters in the lunchroom."

Jordan Brown will miss " the seating in Mrs. Lindstrom and Mr.

Kannegieter's room."

Samantha Sargent will miss" the squeaky floors." Cara Garland will miss " the desks and the bugs." Shannon Rice will miss" the clunking and clanging of the heater." Jessica Hauck will miss the small lockers."

Steve Holloway will miss " running up and down the stairs." Katie Tapper will miss " the stairs" also. Gina Barkovich will miss "the view of PAw Paw from the windows."

MRS.COVEY -NEW in 6th GRADE

Mrs. Beth Covey taught at a private school in Kalamazoo called Gagie School. She taught 7th and 8th grade science and two math classes. While there she coached the 7th and 8th grade basketball and volleyball teams.

Because she needed more time for her family, she wanted to work at Paw Paw Middle School.

Mrs. Covey has exciting hobbies such as reading, cross-stitching, golfing and tennis which she plays in the summer when she can find time.

She loves to bike ride, go to sporting events, or have a day at the beach with her family.

by alexix and bret

IMAGES OF CHRISTMAS

by g. barkovich

The soft blankets of snow lightly cover the ground, seeming to keep the animals below
warm and toasty.
The trees whisper to each other i
in the bitter wind; they look porcelain, as in a fairy tale.

The sun risks shining down
creating a shimmer coat to the snow.
It seems as of mother nature and the
angels above have reunited for a lullaby to the newborn snow.
The memories of my friends and I spinning
in circles as the loose snow gently glided down.

Looking out as we drink our hot
chocolate...burns my tongue
Listening to Christmas music and
amid the sweet smell of evergreen and herbs,
I see the snow angels on the ground...
appearing to take away our worries
and bless the day.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

by b.nash

The choir concert on Wednesday, the 16th , was , I think a success.

The eighth graders sang "We Sing Noel", "A Glad Noel", "Do you Hear What I Hear", and the all-time favorite, "Carol of the Bells."

The seventh graders sang, "Lullaby Noel", "Alleluia", "Somewhere in my Memory" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas".

The High School choirs also sang. It was pretty cool.

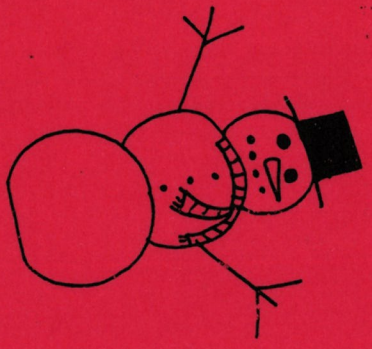
THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

BY NIKKIE BOUCHER
AND BRANDIE NASH

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
1 DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE 5 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
5 RUBBER DUCKYS!
4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE 6 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
6 MUFFIN ROLLS, 5 RUBBER DUCKYS! 4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN,2 SNAPING TURTLES,AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE7 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME,
7 TRASH CANS BURNING, 6 MUFFIN ROLLS, 5 RUBBER DUCKYS! 4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE 8 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
8 GALLONS OF MILK, 7 TRASH CANS BURNING, 6 MUFFIN ROLLS, 5 RUBBER DUCKYS! 4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE 9 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
9 GLASSES OF WATER, 8 GALLONS OF MILK, 7 TRASH CANS BURNING, 6 MUFFIN ROLLS, 5 RUBBER DUCKYS! 4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE 10 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
10 PEOPLE SHOPPING, 9 GLASSES OF WATER, 8 GALLONS OF MILK, 7 TRASH CANS BURNING, 6 MUFFIN ROLLS, 5 RUBBER DUCKYS! 4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE
ON THE 11 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
11 BAGS OF SNOW, 10 PEOPLE SHOPPING, 9 GLASSES OF WATER, 8 GALLONS OF MILK, 7 TRASH CANS BURNING, 6 MUFFIN ROLLS, 5 RUBBER DUCKYS! 4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES AND A DECOMPOSING CHRISTMAS TREE, ON THE 12 DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME
12 FINE GUYS, 11 BAGS OF SNOW, 10 PEOPLE SHOPPING, 9 GLASSES OF WATER, 8 GALLONS OF MILK, 7 TRASH CANS BURNING, 6 MUFFIN ROLLS, 5 RUBBER DUCKYS! 4 BIG MUD TIRES, 3 FRENCH MEN, 2 SNAPPING TURTLES, AND ONE DECOMPOSING, CHRISTMAS, TREE!!!!!

Santa
An gel
Snow man
Received
Red
Tree
Christmas

Give
Peace
Glove
Written
Candy cane
Ornament
Holiday



Your New Building (in miniature)